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# RAD NEWSLETTER

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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PAYS-OFF

Local people seeking to create new opportunities through resource development soon find the community itself is a resource that needs to be developed.

Roads must be adequate, homes must be improved, adequate water and sewage is necessary, and power and communication needs must be met.

Near Basehor, Kansas, a dairy was in danger of closing because wells in the area were becoming contaminated. Dairymen faced the loss of an important market.



USDA made an \$80,000 loan and local people put up \$10,500 to build a community water system. Now the dairy has all the clean water it needs, and its 75 employees add \$30,000 a month to the area's economy. The Department also made a \$187,000 loan to develop another water system within the town of Basehor. As a result, new

homes are going up all over Basehor and business firms and schools no longer have to ration water during the dry spells.

## COMING UP -- THE COMPLETE RESORT

One of the top fishing and hunting spots in the Northwest will become a year-round resort with something for everyone if the local RAD committee has its way.

The RAD committee in Okanogan County, Washington, plans to enlarge the county's reputation as an outdoor recreation area by developing a ski resort, 18-hole golf course, convention facility, dude ranch and boating marina.



Local development corporations in the nine communities in the RAD area are the focal point for specific projects.

Tied in with plans for the dude ranch is a move to develop a large indoor facility for horse shows to make Okanogan County a center for the horse set.

"An unbelievable amount of money is spent in staging horse shows," says Lewis Cooley, Twisp banker and a leader in the local development movement.

"We hope to expand later in harness racing. We also will board horses and provide competent professional training for youngsters who want to ride."

The marina with boating facilities and motels catering to tourists will be developed as a result of a power-generating dam now being built on the Columbia River.

The dam will flood the town of Pateros, population 800. Rather than let Pateros vanish beneath the waves, professional planners are in the final stages of developing a new Pateros to be built on the shore of the new lake.

### RAD COMMITTEE'S DETERMINATION PAYS OFF

When the Prentiss County RAD Committee in Mississippi gave "top priority" to a new sales barn for an area feeder pig sale, they found that money can be harder to round up than a greased pig.

The quarterly sale got its start in July, 1960, with 300 feeder pigs assigned from an eight-county area. It was held in an old livestock show barn. Some farmers and buyers complained about the dilapidated facilities.

After running into several roadblocks in their quest for money, the RAD committee decided to borrow the needed cash on its own.



The new building was ready for the October 1963 sale, and the 1,400 pigs sold averaged five cents per pound above the usual price. Plans are underway for a bi-monthly rather than a quarterly feeder pig sale and to start a feeder calf sale. All this adds up to a strengthened livestock market and additional income for area farmers.

### IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE JOINS RECREATION PUSH

Izaak Walton League chapters in 500 cities have started a program to develop new recreational areas close to large population centers. Local chapters will work with Federal, State and local agencies and community groups to survey the recreation need, and acquire and develop community recreation sites.

### RAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE URGES NEW FUNDS FOR POVERTY FIGHT

The Rural Areas Development (RAD) Advisory Committee has recommended that Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman ask Congress for new loan and grant authorities to help push President Johnson's poverty fight in rural areas.



The Committee also called for a strengthening of the co-operative movement through liberalized loans and more technical assistance to make co-ops a more effective tool in rebuilding rural economies.



The Advisory Committee, composed of some 40 farm, business and civic leaders from all parts of the country, met in Washington February 11 and 12.

The Committee will meet again May 11-12 to make further recommendations as to the Department's role in the war on poverty.

### NATION'S FIRST RURAL RENEWAL PROJECTS OKAYED

Five pilot rural renewal projects were approved for operations last month. Secretary Freeman authorized the Department to extend special loan and technical assistance to help local people in five States develop their resources for new economic growth.

Designated as the nation's first rural renewal areas were Little River County, Arkansas; Holmes, Washington and Walton Counties, Florida; Appanoose and Monroe Counties, Iowa; Dallas and Hickory Counties, Missouri; and Hardy and Mineral Counties, West Virginia.

Project leaders already have been assigned to work full time with local people to help them plan and carry out projects to develop land for efficient family farms, public recreation, reforestation, housing and other needed purposes.

The bulk of the development work will be financed with private funds or money available through existing Federal and State programs. However, local sponsors also will be eligible for special, low-cost loans to finance certain land use adjustment activities that are not eligible for financial help under any other existing Federal program.

Congress provided \$1.2 million last December to initiate the rural renewal program on a pilot basis during the current fiscal year.

### MORE THAN 51,000 ORGANIZATIONS HAVE THEIR OWN PRIVATE RECREATION AREAS

More than 51,000 organized groups with 8.9 million members lease or have permits to use 39 million acres of privately owned land for outdoor recreation, a USDA survey shows.

The organizations using the land include sportsmen, youth and church groups, employee associations, ski clubs, recreation associations and the like.

The USDA report indicates that 47,324 land owners lease or permit their land to be used by these groups and that 27,392 of the landowners receive an income or other economic return from the using group.

## WATERSHED PROJECTS AND RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

A new picture story, just off the press, tells how small watershed projects strengthen the rural economy and stimulate Rural Areas Development.

Pictures and brief examples show how the purposes of the Watershed Act--reduced flood damage, municipal water supply, improved land use, recreation, and improved water management--form a springboard for economic growth. Some highlights from the water management section:

"The North St. Lucie River Watershed project in Florida was developed primarily for flood protection and to maintain an adequate water table to facilitate irrigation of highly productive citrus land. Since the project was completed, at least 1,000 acres of land formerly considered too hazardous for citrus is now planted to fruit trees. Farmers have installed 50 new sprinkler irrigation systems. Due to adequate drainage, fruit production was increased. This has created a demand for additional picking labor, trucking, processing, packaging and distribution services. A new \$300,000 packing house--which will employ 50 people--is now under construction.



"In Texas Green Creek Watershed project, water from the sediment pools of 11 flood retarding dams is being used for supplemental irrigation on 408 acres of farmland. (Primarily peanuts, tame pasture and forage.) As a result of the irrigation, it is estimated that \$25.83 additional net income per acre is obtained.

"A million dollar shopping plaza is going up in Keene, New Hampshire, on land considered unsuitable for this purpose until the Ash Swamp Watershed project was developed. Additional tax revenue from the shopping center alone will in just three years more than pay the \$75,000 which the city invested in the entire watershed project."

For single copies, send a postcard requesting Picture Story 162, to: Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

## WHAT DO CAMPERS LOOK FOR?

What do campers look for most--hot showers, electricity and flush toilets? Not so say University of Illinois researchers.

They checked 158 families camping in Shawnee National Forest and found running water topped their list of wants. Privacy also ranked high. While the campers didn't mind a camping fee, they did dislike the idea of paying separate fees for wood, water, etc.

## EIGHT REGIONAL CONFERENCES SET

USDA agency leaders at the state level will discuss Rural Areas Development at eight regional conferences, scheduled from Mid-April through the first week of May. Meeting sites include Memphis, Atlanta, Chicago, Omaha, Boston, Portland, Denver, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.